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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 12, 2012, at 10 a.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2012

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord God, hear our prayers. You are the source of all our blessings, the author of our liberty, and the guide for our future. Make us a people with reverence for Your Name.

Infuse our lawmakers with the spirit of Your kindness so that they may desire to give rather than to get, to share rather than to keep, to praise rather than to criticize, and to forgive rather than to condemn. May their lives be the reflection of Your goodness and grace, as they commit themselves to enjoy the privilege of working for You.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 11, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COONS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

AGRICULTURE REFORM, FOOD, AND JOBS ACT OF 2012—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. The Senate is considering the motion to proceed to the farm bill postclosure.

At 4:30, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Andrew Hurwitz of Arizona to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. At 5:30 p.m., there will be a cloture vote on the Hurwitz nomination.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Democrats and Republicans hold a different view on many issues. But the bipartisan work by Senators STABENOW and ROBERTS on the agriculture jobs bill demonstrates, despite our differences, we can still find common ground. I hope their cooperative spirit guides our work on this important legislation this week. American farmers are counting on us, and so is the economy.

Despite the uncertain economic times, America's farms are the most productive in the world, exporting \$136 billion worth of products last year and supporting 16 million private sector jobs. But to keep American farms strong, Congress must pass a strong farm bill.

This legislation creates jobs, cuts subsidies, and reduces the deficit. The bill includes important reforms to farm and food stamp programs. It saves \$23 billion, which will be used to reduce the deficit. And it will give farmers the certainty they need to maintain the largest trade surplus of any sector of our economy.

Helping American farmers thrive is an important part of our work to get the economy on a firm footing again. I commend Senators STABENOW and ROBERTS for their leadership on this issue. We are working now to come up with a list of amendments on this legislation.

It is a shame we are now wasting 30 hours postclosure on this bill. It is a bill that passed by 90 Senators agreeing that we should move forward to debate. But it now appears we are in a situation that we were in last week and the week before and the week before that, when the Republicans have made a decision that they would rather do anything they can to stop jobs from being created, hoping it will help them with the elections come November.

Too often in this Congress the Republican strategy has been to kill job-creating bills in the hopes of harming the economy and hurting President Obama. It forces the Senate to spend weeks passing consensus legislation that once was passed in a matter of minutes.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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